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6/24/98

BACKGROUND - GREEK ELECTORAL SYSTEM

I. Anomaly of 163 ~~out~~ of ~~possible~~ 300 seats being won with ~~only~~ 46% of popular vote stems from new Greek electoral law, specially passed ~~by~~ in Dec '55 to cover latest election.

A. Previous law (which worked on a "plurality takes all" basis)

gave Papagos' Rally 239 out of 300 seats with 49% of popular vote ('52).

B. ~~Present~~ law was framed <sup>(BECAUSE IT WAS APPARENT)</sup> on theory that nobody could repeat

this performance ~~in view of collapse of Rally coalition.~~

C. Law aimed at penalizing small splinters (any party ~~that fails to~~ <sup>that fails to</sup> poll at least 15% of national vote is out), but rewarding

coalitions (groups of parties, working together, need only poll 25% of national vote to achieve representation).

II. Mechanics of law <sup>DIVIDE</sup> involve division of Greece's 41 electoral districts <sup>FOLLOWING</sup> into four groups: the <sup>(TEN)</sup> 10 districts that ~~elect~~ <sup>elect</sup> between 1 and 3 deputies; the <sup>(SIXTEEN)</sup> 16 districts that elect 4 to 6; the <sup>(ELEVEN)</sup> 11 that elect 7 to 9; and the <sup>(FOUR)</sup> 4 ~~four~~ urban areas (Athens, Salonika, Larissa and Patras) <sup>(IRAEUS)</sup> that elect 11 or more deputies.

A. In the 1 to 3 deputy districts, plurality winner gets all seats.

B. In the 4 to 6 deputy districts, plurality winner gets all seats but one, which is awarded to second-place winner (providing this second-place party ~~for~~ coalition has made its quota of 15% ~~for~~ 25% of both district and national vote).

1. IF QUOTA NOT MADE, SEAT REVERTS TO PLURALITY WINNER. ⊕  
C. In the 7 to 9 deputy districts, plurality winner gets all seats but two, both of which go to second runner (assuming quota made).

D. In the four urban districts, <sup>however,</sup> seats go by direct proportional <sup>rear</sup> representation (again assuming that ~~third and fourth place~~ runners have made their national and local quotas).

NSC BRIEFING

1 March 1956

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**BACKGROUND--GREEK ELECTORAL SYSTEM**

- I. Anomaly of 163 of 300 seats being won with 48% of popular vote stems from new Greek electoral law, specially passed in Dec '55 to cover latest election.
  - A. Previous law (which worked on a "plurality takes all" basis) gave Papagos' Rally 239 out of 300 seats with 48% of popular vote, ('52).
  - B. Present law was framed because it was apparent that nobody could repeat this performance.
  - C. Law aims at penalizing small splinters (any party that fails to poll at least 15% of national vote is out), but rewarding coalitions (groups of parties, working together, need only poll 25% of national vote to achieve representation).

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**II. Mechanics of law divide Greece's 41**

electoral districts into following four groups: the ten districts that elect between 1 and 3 deputies; the sixteen districts that elect 4 to 6; the eleven that elect 7 to 9; and the four urban areas (Athens, Salonika, Larissa and Piraeus) that elect 11 or more deputies.

- A. In the 1 to 3 deputy districts, plurality winner gets all seats.
- B. In the 4 to 6 deputy districts, plurality winner gets all seats but one, which is awarded to second-place winner (providing this second-place party or coalition has made its quota of 15% or 25% of both district and national vote).
  - 1. If quota not made, seat reverts to plurality winner.

plurality winner gets all seats but two, both of which go to second runner (assuming quota made).

D. In the four urban districts, however, seats go by direct proportional representation (again assuming that runners have made their national and local quotas).

1. Example: Markezinis' party got only 2.2% of national vote, and was counted out.